Problems of rubber and cardamom growers of Kerala

*159. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the steps that are being taken to remove the present problems being faced by the rubber and cardamom growers in Kerala due to the present drought condition?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): There has been no noticeable impact of drought during 1989 on the growth and yield of Rubber in Kerala. However, preliminary estimates for cardamom indicate the plant loss to be between 10 to 15 per cent and the crop loss around 20 cent on account of drought.

The Rubber Board and the Spices Board are already implementing suitable schemes aimed at providing sufficient know how and financial assistance for countering the effects of drought.

Suggestions of some Chief Ministers for better Centre-State relations

*160. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:

SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will consider the suggestions made by the six Chief Ministers regarding formation of a national wage policy, for greater involvement of the States in decision making in the matter of Planning, for the introduction of consignment tax and formation of a national credit council, for better Centre-State relations; and

(b) if so, by when a decision in respect of the above matters is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Commission on Centre-State Relations including financial relation have been discussed by the Parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Home Affairs and in both the Houses of Parliament. Comments of the State Governments have also been invited and a number of them have furnished their views and suggestions. The Government is keeping its mind open on all suggestions and recommendations.

Scientific Cooperation between Developed and Developing Countries

@934. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news report which appeared in 'The Times of India' dated the 22nd February, 1989 to the effect that Prof. M.G.K. Menon, Member Planning Commission and President of the I.C.S.U. has pleaded for scientific cooperation between the developed and developing countries for better understanding of global atmosphere and delicate linkages in earth system;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A conference on 'Global Warming and Climatic Change-Perspective from developing countries' was organised by the Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Woods Hole Research Centre, USA and the World Resources Institute, USA from 21—27 February, 1989 at New Delhi and was attended by about 150 scientists and environmentalist from within the country and abroad. The conference drew attention towards the threats of global warming and climatic change particularly for developing countries. It has called for cooperative action by all countries and

@Previously Unstarred Question 197 Transferred from the 25th April, 1989.

pointed out the primary responsibility of developed countries to take corrective action.

(c) India is actively participating in the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), organised by the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme. The IPCC would aim at formulating global strategies to deal with the impacts of climate change on the basis of scientific analysis. India supports the need for global cooperation in this regard.

Mismanagement of Traffic in Delhi

@935. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in the 'Statesman' dated the 22nd March, 1989 regarding mismanagement of Traffic in Delhi and, if so, what corrective steps are proposed to be taken;

(b) whether Government propose to set up Consultative|Advisory Committees in each locality of Delhi with participation of interested public groups thereon;

(c) whether Government propose to select at least 200 Honorary Traffic Wardens in the city of Delhi who may be authorised to report to Police with brief details on vehicles who are breaking the traffic laws and make its obligatory for the Police to take action on such report within 10 days; and

(d) whether Government are aware that number-wise and alphabetically name-wise lists of vehicles and owners and drivers have not been compiled and updated and made available to every Police Station in Delhi so far, which explains failure to apprehend offenders with speed and precision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Government have seen the news item. Action has been initiated to increase the strength of Delhi Traffic Police.

(b) A number of consultative|advisory committees are already functioning in Delhi.

(c) The Traffic Police has 303 Honorary traffic wardens who are authorised to report details of vehicles breaking traffic laws. The offending vehicles are then issued notices from the office of the DCP, Traffic.

(d) There is a control room functioning in the Directorate of Transport (Telephone No. 230782) on a 24 hours basis from where ownership details of vehicles can be obtained, particularly outside office hours.

Quantity of DL-2 Aminobutanol required for production of 1 Kg. of Ethambutol

936. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the production of one Kg. of Ethambutol, only 1.89 Kgs. of an intermediate known as DL-2 Aminobutanol is required;

(b) whether it is a fact that his Ministry allowed higher drawback based on light consumption of DL-2 Aminobutanol;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is loss of foreign exchange on the export of Ethambutol; and

(d) if so, what steps are being proposed to investigate the entire scandal and by when investigation will be completed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) For Brand Rate of Duty Drawback during 1986 to 1988, for different firms,

@Previously Unstarred Question 261, transferred from the 26th April, 1989.